

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-31, and 36-40 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 3-15, 17-26, and 28-31 have been rejected. Claims 36-40 have been withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. Claims 16 and 27 have been objected to. The Applicant amends claims 1, 17, 21, and 25, and cancels claims 15-16, 19-20, 24, and 26-27. The Applicant adds no new matter and respectfully requests reconsideration. The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1, 3-15, 17-26, and 28-31. However, to further this case to issuance these claims have been amended or canceled.

Withdrawn Claims from Consideration

The Applicant cancels claims 36-40, which the Examiner withdrew from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 16 and 27 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicant has elected to rewrite claims 16 and 27 in independent form to place claims 1, 3-14, 17-18, 21-23, 25, and 28-31 in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102 & § 103

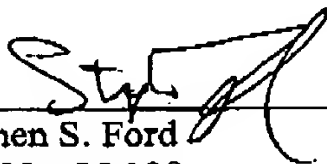
The Applicant rewrites claims 16 and 27 into independent form and cancels claims 15-16, 19-20, 24, and 26-27 obviate the Examiner's rejections. The Applicant amends claims 17 and 25 to depend directly from newly-rewritten independent claims 1 and 21, respectively, as they previously depended from intervening claims that were canceled in conjunction with the rewriting of claims 16 and 27 into independent form.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 3-14, 17-18, 21-23, 25, and 28-31 of the application as amended is solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

MARGER JOHNSON & McCOLLOM, P.C.



Stephen S. Ford
Reg. No. 35,139

MARGER JOHNSON & McCOLLOM, P.C.
210 SW Morrison Street, Suite 400
Portland, OR 97204
503-222-3613
Customer No. 46404